

Remarks

Claims 13 (as amended), 15, 18 and 19 are now pending.

The Rejection

The following patents have been relied upon to reject various of the Applicants' claims:

U.S. Patents

6,220,323	Sandstrom et al. (Sandstrom)
4,683,928	Yahagi

U.S. Patent Applications

2002/0111416	McNutt, et al. (McNutt)
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Foreign Patent Publication

Japan 08-188672	Midorikawa et al. (Midorikawa) (machine translation)
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Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has reported that the Applicants' claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicants' base claim 13 has been re-written to be restricted to the substantive carbon black restrictions of claims 15, 18 and 19 (claim 16 having been cancelled as being duplicative of claim 15).

Claims 15, 18 and 19 depend from the amended independent base claim 13.

It is believed that the Applicants' claims 13, 15, 18 and 19 are now presented in an allowable form.

Respectfully submitted,

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